

organized as a ward with Fred S. Musser as Bishop. He was succeeded in 1915 by Alma A. Burgener, who on Jan. 5, 1930, was succeeded by Charles W. Smith, who acted Dec. 31, 1930. The Church membership on that date was 177, including 35 children. The total population of the Midview Precinct was 159 in 1930.

MIDWAY, the second town of importance and size in Wasatch County, Utah, is situated west and north of the Provo River, in the northwest part of Provo Valley. Its inhabitants are nearly all farmers and stock-raisers, many of them being of Swiss origin. Midway has two fine L. D. S. chapels (modern meeting houses) and many fine residences surrounded by shade trees and orchards. The town is pleasantly situated on Snake Creek, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the Provo River, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Heber City. Otherwise the town is situated near the east base of the Wasatch Mountains, 15 miles south of Park City, and 42 miles by nearest road southeast of Salt Lake City. The townsite is regularly surveyed into 27 five-acre blocks; the streets cross each other at right angles, four rods wide, with the exception of Main Street running east and west and those around the public square which are six rods wide. The soil in Midway is warmer than in any other part of Wasatch County on account of being so close to the warm springs which abound in that neighborhood. The settlement is especially adapted to the raising of wheat and other small grains, and also vegetables of various kinds. There are more shade and fruit trees at Midway than elsewhere in Provo Valley. Within the limits of the town there are two bathing resorts of hot springs, one situated a mile northwest of the center of the town, opened June 24, 1891. Nearly all the inhabitants are Latter-day Saints who are organized into two bishop's wards, namely, the Midway 1st and the Midway 2nd wards. These two wards on Dec. 31, 1930, had a total membership of 822 members,

including 152 children. The total population of the Midway Precinct was 921 in 1930, of which 745 resided in the town of Midway.

In the vicinity of Midway there is a collection of thirty or forty water-tanks (called hot pots) that may well be classed among the curiosities of the country. They resemble the frustum of a cone being in all proportional, but of different sizes. The largest of these cisterns known as the Big White Mound is about forty rods in circumference at its base and fifteen or twenty feet at the top, rising from the level of the surrounding country to the height of forty feet and is entirely filled with water. Some of the other tanks are filled with water, and running over at the top in a small stream, while others are only partly filled with water and some are entirely dry. The water in these reservoirs is of different colors. In some it is green, in others blue, and in others various other shades. The famous rattlesnake den is also in this vicinity. In its formation it partakes of the nature of the cisterns named, being 15 or 20 rods in circumference at its base, and 20 feet high with a dry reservoir at the top. The mound is formed of shale rock, full of seams and fissures, which furnish habitations for an innumerable number of rattlesnakes. These reptiles are remarkable for staying at home, being seldom seen over a mile from their den. Very often during the summer season the rocks seem to be alive with them and fifty or more can sometimes be seen crawling together in the trail near the foot of the mound, and in other places near the den.

The first settlers on Snake Creek arrived in the spring of 1859. Among them were Jesse McCarroll, Ben Mark Smith and Sidney Epperson. McCarroll and Smith built the first houses on the east side of the creek, near the place where Van Wagoner afterwards built his mill. Pioneer cabins were built the same year and four families spent the

winter of 1859-1860 in that part of Provo Valley now included in the Midway Ward. In the spring of 1859 Father Mills came up from Provo Valley, wheeling his tools on a wheelbarrow, and located a mill site on Snake Creek, where Mound City afterwards was built. At that time the country was infested with bears to such an extent that Father Mills found it necessary to lock himself up in a box at night to protect himself against the bears and snakes. He erected a frame-work for his contemplated saw mill in the fall of 1859. The first settlers who located on the west side of Provo Valley came from Provo and American Fork in Utah County. They located at different points between the mouth of Snake Creek and White Pine Canyon, but mainly at two points subsequently named Midway and Mound City. The first of these was on Snake Creek, located $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below or due north of the present Midway. Mound City, or the upper settlement, was situated on both sides of Snake Creek, immediately below the junction of that stream with White Pine Creek, or about two miles above the present Midway.

In 1861 other settlers arrived in Provo Valley, some of whom located on Snake Creek, and the upper settlement soon became considerably the largest. John H. Van Wagoner finished the first flouring mill ever built in Provo Valley that year; it was erected on Snake Creek in the lower settlement. Sidney H. Epperson was appointed presiding Elder at Mound City, which in 1864 contained 36 families of saints—David Van Wagoner was appointed to preside over the lower settlement, which included the mill and the settlers residing at different points above the same. The lower settlement had about twenty families in 1864. The presiding Elder in each of the two settlements acted under the direction of Joseph S. Murdock of Heber. Log meeting houses were built in both settlements, the one at Mound City being erected in 1862, and

the one in the lower settlement in 1864. A post office was established at Midway in 1865.

In 1866, when the Indians in the southern part of Utah went on the war-path, the saints on Snake Creek in Provo Valley were advised to move together on the present site of Midway, breaking up both Mound City above and the original Midway below. Hence the present townsite of Midway was selected and called Midway. The place selected was a spot unfit for farming, it being a sort of rocky ledge of limestone formation, created by nature through the agency of warm water. When the people of Mound City and the original Midway moved together, they erected their houses and stables (which they generally moved from their former locations) on the rocky flat in fort style around the block in which the meeting house and other public buildings were erected. Sidney H. Epperson presided in the new Midway settlement at the beginning. He was succeeded in 1870 by Henry S. Alexander, who presided until 1877, when the Midway Branch was organized as a regular bishop's ward with David Van Wagoner as Bishop. He was succeeded in 1892 by John Watkins, who died Dec. 23, 1902, after which Alvin J. Alexander took temporary charge of the ward until Feb. 8, 1903, when Midway was divided into two wards, namely, the Midway 1st and the Midway 2nd wards.

MIDWAY 1ST WARD, Wasatch Stake, Wasatch Co., Utah, consists of Latter-day Saints residing in the east part of Midway, the street running north and south, east of the public square, being the boundary line between the two wards.

The Midway Ward was divided into two wards Feb. 8, 1903, namely, the Midway 1st Ward with Joseph W. Francom as Bishop, and the Midway 2nd Ward. Brother Francom was succeeded in 1906 by Henry T. Coleman, who in 1913 was succeeded by John Van Wagoner, jun., who in 1926 was

succeeded by Clark Bronson, who presided Dec. 31, 1930. On that date the Midway First Ward had 450 members, including 102 children.

MIDWAY 2ND WARD, Wasatch Stake, Wasatch Co., Utah, consists of the Latter-day Saints residing in the west part of the town of Midway, being separated from the Midway 1st Ward by the street running north and south, east of the public square.

Jacob Probst was chosen as Bishop of the Midway 2nd Ward on Feb. 8, 1903, when the Midway Ward was divided into two wards. He presided Dec. 31, 1930, on which date the Midway 2nd Ward had 372 members, including 50 children.

When Midway was divided in 1903, the old meeting house, valued at \$2,000, remained in the 2nd Ward, and is still used by the saints of that ward as a house of worship. The saints of the 2nd Ward assisted those of the 1st Ward in erecting a new meeting house elsewhere.

MILBURN WARD, North Sanpete Stake, Sanpete Co., Utah, consists of the Latter-day Saints residing in the extreme north end of Sanpete Valley. The center of the ward is the townsite of Milburn situated on the so-called Dry Creek, and is a station on the Marysvale branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway, six miles north of Fairview, and 92 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. The ward extends north to Indianola Ward in Thistle Valley, east to the county line, south to the Fairview Ward, and west to the mountains. About two-thirds of the inhabitants live on or adjacent to the townsite, while the remainder live on their respective farms on both sides of the Sanpitch River.

Milburn is an outgrowth of the Fairview Ward and its site was for many years used as a herd-ground by the people of Fairview. In 1865 there was only one house in that district of country now included in the Milburn Ward, but after that several new settlers moved in, and on April 20, 1890,

the saints who resided in that part of the country were separated from Fairview Ward and organized in a new ward named Milburn with James William Stewart as Bishop. He succeeded in 1918 by Byron Al Vance, who in 1924 was succeeded by George E. Stewart, who presided Dec. 31, 1930, when the ward had a Church membership of 195, including 59 children. The total population of the Milburn Precinct was 137 in 1930.

MILFORD WARD, Beaver Stake, Beaver Co., Utah, consists of the Latter-day Saints residing in Milford, a railroad town on the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, 31 1/2 miles northwest of Beaver, the headquarters of the Beaver Stake, and 227 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. The importance of Milford is due to the fact that it is the supply center for the mines in Beaver County. The population of Milford is mostly transient, depending mainly on the railroad for a living. Only a minority of the inhabitants are Latter-day Saints. Milford is situated in the open desert valley, a short distance west of Beaver Creek. When said creek is high, it forms a junction with the Sevier River and thence enters the Sevier Lake, but the water seldom reaches further than the so-called Beaver Bottoms in Millard County, where the water spreads for miles over level ground about 2 miles north of Milford.

Ranches were located in that part of Beaver County where Milford stands as early as 1870, but the place had no significance until May 15, 1878, when the Utah Southern Railroad (now the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad) was opened to Milford. Milford became the shipping point for the whole southern country and the place soon grew to be quite a railroad town. Among the people employed in and about the station a number of Latter-day Saints were organized into a bishop's quorum on Oct. 29, 1880, with William McAllister as Bishop. He was succeeded in 1882 by Ebenezer Tanner, who ad-